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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AND RELATED MATTERS

United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Report of the Administrator

I. PURPOSE

1. The present report is submitted to the Executive Board in accordance with paragraph 4 of its decision 94/13 of 9 June 1994.

II. UNDP SUPPORT TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990S (UN-NADAF)

A. General

2. In support of UN-NADAF, UNDP has reoriented its development assistance to Africa to give emphasis to priority areas called for in the New Agenda. The sustainable human development (SHD) paradigm has facilitated this process and, throughout Africa, UNDP is introducing projects and programmes with a focus on capacity-building for poverty eradication, empowering civil society, correcting gender bias, promoting environmental concerns and advancing the human development agenda. Other support for UN-NADAF is provided through the project RAF/93/004/A/01/51: Support for Monitoring the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, launched by UNDP in 1993 in response to paragraph 29 of General Assembly resolution 46/151. This project, which is due for review and possible extension following its expiration on 31 December 1995, is designed to:

(a) Provide monitoring of networks and strengthening mechanisms for policy dialogue on Africa through the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA);

(b) Reinforce the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries (OSCAL);

(c) Provide support to Africa Recovery magazine to enable a wider coverage and dissemination of information regarding African development.

B. Activities and achievements in 1995

3. Several activities were supported in line with the New Agenda. In the area of human resources development, UNDP helped many countries, including Botswana, Cameroon, Gambia, Guinea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi and Namibia to focus on operationalizing the SHD concept. In the environmental field UNDP supported initiatives such as Capacity 21 and coordinated its interventions with those of other partners, including the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO); the Africa 2000 Network on grass-roots activities in the management of natural resources; and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), mainly on activities related to biodiversity conservation and the protection of coastal areas from pollution.

4. Support for the establishment of the African Economic Community (AEC). UNDP continued to provide assistance to the joint OAU/ECA/African Development Bank (AfDB) Secretariat charged with managing the implementation of the Abuja Treaty for the establishment of the AEC. Activities that were supported included strengthening the capacity of the Secretariat, rationalization and harmonization of intergovernmental organizations and finalization of the AEC protocols of agreement. To catalyse this support further, a new project entitled "RAF/94/008: The Promotion of Africa's Economic Cooperation and Integration through the Establishment of the African Economic Community" was approved in late 1995 and is due to be launched in early 1996.

5. Capacity-building and long-term strategic planning. Under the multi-donor-funded African Capacity-Building Initiative (ACBI), which aims at strengthening regional and national capacities to formulate and manage national economic policies and programmes, support was extended to key training institutions in several countries, including Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The report of the mid-term evaluation of ACBI was discussed at the Executive Board at its third regular session 1995. A multi-donor evaluation is planned for early 1996. Long-term strategic planning is being supported by the National Long-Term Perspective Studies (NLTPS) programme. The exercise was completed in late 1995 in Mauritius and is expected to be completed soon in Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon and Guinea Bissau. It is under way in several other countries, including Cape Verde, Mauritania, Senegal, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

6. Private sector development. The promotion of the private sector to increase productivity, savings and investment is a key requirement for economic growth. The Africa Project Development Facility (APDF), co-sponsored by UNDP,

AfDB, the World Bank and bilateral donors, has completed 130 projects in 25 countries. The African Management Services Company (AMSCO), which supports management strengthening and training, continued to make progress in 1995 after its substantive restructuring in 1993. Further assistance was provided by the Caisse française de développement, which has been supportive since 1993 for setting up an investment guarantee fund for West Africa.

7. Additional support to UN-NADAF was provided through project RAF/93/004. The principal activities assisted in 1995 are noted below.

8. Support to the Panel of High-Level Personalities on African Development. UNDP continued to participate actively in efforts by the Panel to build international consensus on priority issues on African economic recovery and development, such as the role of African non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in development, African debt, human resources development, agriculture, trade, peace, stability and security in Africa. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, served as Acting Secretary of the Panel.

9. Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries. UNDP provided (a) partial funding for the workshop on NGOs and African development organized by OSCAL in January 1995 and (b) support for a study on the development of the African informal sector. UNDP co-organized with OSCAL the international workshop on the development of Africa's informal sector at United Nations Headquarters in New York in June 1995. This workshop recommended the setting-up of an international task force to design a special programme of support for Africa's informal sector. UNDP and OSCAL co-organized the first meeting of the Task Force in New York in November 1995. Eight priority areas for support by the international community were identified by the Task Force. The draft will be finalized at the second meeting of the Task Force scheduled to be held in Conakry, Guinea, from 22-26 April 1996.

10. Follow-up to Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). Follow-up activities to TICAD continued in 1995 when OSCAL, with UNDP support, organized a workshop in Harare with a view to operationalizing the recommendations of the Tokyo Declaration on African Development.

III. IMPACT OF UNDP SUPPORT

11. By supporting the three United Nations entities involved in the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of UN-NADAF, namely, OSCAL, ECA and Africa Recovery magazine, UNDP has contributed to efforts at ensuring that UN-NADAF is effectively implemented and that the issue of African economic recovery and development is kept as a top priority of the United Nations.

IV. UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE SPECIAL INITIATIVE FOR AFRICA

12. UN-NADAF will be given new impetus through the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for Africa, which brings, to selected areas of African development priorities, a coordinated and comprehensive approach to aid

delivery. In partnership with African countries, the Bretton Woods institutions and bilateral donors, the United Nations system will commit itself to working in a synergistic manner to support an unprecedented set of concrete programme actions designed to maximize African development efforts.

13. The Special Initiative comes at a critical time for Africa. In general, prospects for economic recovery are greater than they have been in recent years. As a result of consistent policy reform measures, several countries have registered positive rates of growth in consecutive years thereby creating the conditions for investment and promotion of the private sector. Moreover, many countries are adopting measures that will lead to an enabling environment of accountability and better governance. These are all positive indicators for accelerating development efforts. Yet, there are far too many countries that have been unable to respond effectively to deteriorating economic trends or to the circumstances that have resulted in destructive civil conflicts.

14. The Special Initiative will aim at adding momentum to Africa's development initiatives. It will strengthen the capacity of African men and women to take charge of the development process and promote the minimum conditions for civil tranquillity, good governance and socio-economic progress in order to give development a chance. It will also seek to give more hope to upcoming generations through the provision of services that will improve the quality of life.

15. The Special Initiative has 14 main components concentrated in the following sectors: basic education, basic health, governance, food security, water and sanitation, peace-building and informatics. For each of the major components, a lead United Nations agency or agencies will be responsible for coordinating implementation with the African country concerned and for resource mobilization with the support of the World Bank.

16. The Special Initiative seeks to mobilize resources in the order of $25 billion for activities to be undertaken over a 10-year period. A large proportion of the resources is to come from a reallocation of existing levels of development assistance by Africa's multilateral and bilateral donors and by African countries' own resources, as well. Nevertheless, it is expected that the Special Initiative will attract new and additional resources, particularly for those priority areas that have not so far benefited from the required level of assistance to achieve the desired result.

17. The Special Initiative is innovative because it provides a framework for unprecedented partnership between Africa and its development partners and a synergy among development agencies. It aims to give operational significance and focused programme orientation to the policy commitments made in UN-NADAF and its predecessor, the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.